



Billing Code 4165-15

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Health Resources and Services Administration**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection: Public Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS

**ACTION:** Notice

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirement for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects (Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announces plans to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR), described below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Prior to submitting the ICR to OMB, HRSA seeks comments from the public regarding the burden estimate, below, or any other aspect of the ICR.

**DATES:** Comments on this Information Collection Request must be received no later than **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit your comments to [paperwork@hrsa.gov](mailto:paperwork@hrsa.gov) or mail the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer, Room 10-29, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on the proposed project or to obtain a copy of the data collection plans and draft instruments, email *paperwork@hrsa.gov* or call the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer at (301) 443-1984.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** When submitting comments or requesting information, please include the information request collection title for reference.

Information Collection Request Title: Telehealth Resource Center Performance Measurement Tool, OMB No. 0915-0361 – Revision

Abstract: To ensure the best use of public funds and to meet the Government Performance Review Act (GPRA) requirements, the Federal Office of Rural Health's Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT), in collaboration with the Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs), created a set of performance measures that grantees can use to evaluate the technical assistance services provided by the TRCs. Grantee goals are to customize the provision of telehealth technical assistance across the country. The TRCs provide technical assistance to health care organizations, health care networks, and health care providers in the implementation of cost-effective telehealth programs to serve rural and medically underserved areas and populations.

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: In order to evaluate existing programs, data are

obtained from the Performance Improvement Measurement system (PIMs). The data are used to measure the effectiveness of the technical assistance. The tool is also used to address GPRA initiatives. There are two data reporting periods each year; during these biannual reporting, data are reported for the previous 6 months of activity. Programs have approximately 6 weeks to enter their data into the PIMs system during each biannual reporting period. The instrument was developed with the following four goals in mind:

- I. improving access to needed services;
- II. reducing rural practitioner isolation;
- III. improving health system productivity and efficiency; and
- IV. improving patient outcomes.

The TRCs currently report on existing performance data elements using PIMs. The current PIMs will continue to be used to report on new measures. The performance measures are designed to assess how the TRC program is meeting its goals to:

- 1. Expand the availability of telehealth services in underserved communities;
- 2. Improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of telehealth services;
- 3. Promote knowledge exchange and dissemination about efficient and effective telehealth practices and technology; and
- 4. Establish sustainable technical assistance (TA) centers providing quality, unbiased TA for the development and expansion of effective and efficient telehealth services in underserved communities.

Additionally, the PIMs tool allows OAT to:

- Fulfill obligations for GPRA and Program Assessment Rating Tool requirements and to report to Congress the value added from the TRC Grant Program;
- Justify budget requests;
- Collect uniform, consistent data which enables OAT to monitor programs;
- Provide guidance to grantees on important indicators to track over time for their own internal program management;
- Measure performance relative to the mission of OAT/HRSA as well as individual goals and objectives of the program;
- Identify topics of interest for future special studies; and
- Identify changes in healthcare needs within rural communities, allowing programs to shift focus in order to meet those needs.

This revised request proposes changes to existing measures. After compiling data from the previous tool over the last 3 years, the Office conducted an analysis of the data and compared the findings with the program needs. Based on the findings, the measures were revised to better capture information necessary to measure the effectiveness of the program.

Likely Respondents: The likely respondents will be telehealth associations, telehealth providers, rural health providers, clinicians that deliver services via telehealth, technical assistance

providers, research organizations, and academic medical centers.

Burden Statement: Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this Information Collection Request are summarized in the table below.

Total Estimated Annualized burden hours:

Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses per Respondent	Total Responses	Average Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Burden Hours
Telehealth Resource Center Performance Data Collection Tool	14	42	588	0.07	41.16
Total	14	42	588	0.07	41.16

HRSA specifically requests comments on: (1) the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency's functions; (2) the accuracy of

the estimated burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

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